

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) A method of making a medicament for the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands, the method comprising forming a sodium chloride formulated coated with an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during the therapeutic application in or on the body the sodium chloride shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation.

2. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the sodium chloride is in crystal form.

3. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the agent is a ceramic, a polymer or a natural wax.

4. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the agent encapsulates sodium chloride to form a sphere.

5. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein the sphere is of a diameter between 1 mm and 10 ram.

6. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein the sphere comprises sodium chloride crystals coated with beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.

7. (previously presented) The preparation of claim 30, wherein said substance is sodium chloride.

8. (previously presented) The preparation according to claim 7 wherein the agent is a ceramic, a polymer or a natural wax.

9. (previously presented) The preparation according to claim 7 wherein the agent encapsulates sodium chloride to form a sphere.

10. (currently amended) The preparation according to claim 9 wherein the sphere is of a diameter between 1 mm and 10 ~~ram~~ mm.

11. (previously presented) The preparation according to claim 9 wherein the sphere comprises sodium chloride crystals coated with beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.

12. (withdrawn) A patch suitable for adherence to skin containing coated sodium chloride according to claim 7 adapted for use in the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by the blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.

13. (withdrawn) The patch according to claim 12 comprising a sticking plaster suitable for adherence to skin.

14. (withdrawn) The patch according to claim 13 comprising a hypoallergenic water resistant plaster.

15. (withdrawn) The patch according to claim 13 in the form of a figure eight.

16. (withdrawn) The patch according to claim 15 further comprising two spherical granules of sodium chloride.

17. (withdrawn) A device consisting of a holder adapted for holding medically efficacious compound, an energy source and an actuator driven by the energy source

for temporarily and at intervals placing the compound in proximity to but not in contact with the skin of a subject such that during therapeutic use the compound shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the device.

18. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 17 adapted to be worn around the abdomen or thorax of a subject.

19. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 17 wherein the energy source is a low voltage battery.

20. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 17 further comprises an electronic timer.

21. (withdrawn) The device according to claim 17 wherein the actuator is a spring return push-rod solenoid.

22. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 17 adapted to hold sodium chloride.

23. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 17 adapted to hold sodium chloride coated with an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during therapeutic application in or on the body the sodium chloride shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation:

in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.

24. (currently amended) A preparation for use as a medicament, comprising a medically efficacious substance coated ~~or otherwise enclosed by an agent that forms with [[a]] an aqueous liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that in use the medically efficacious substance shows:~~

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the preparation;

~~for use as a medicament for surrounding and substantially preventing release of the medically efficacious substance, wherein the layer contains a ceramic, a clay, an inorganic non-metallic material, a polymer, a natural wax, a perforated stainless steel, or beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.~~

25. (currently amended) ~~A~~The preparation according to claim 24, in a form selected from the group consisting of: a pill, a tablet, a lozenge, a bolus, a capsule, a caplet, a granule, a nanoparticle, and a microparticle.

26. (currently amended) ~~A~~The preparation according to claim 25, being in granular, nanoparticle or microparticle form selected from the group consisting of: a suspension, a cream, and a paste.

27. (currently amended) ~~A~~The preparation according to claim 24, prepared for use with a patch for holding said preparation near to or against the skin of a patient.

28. (currently amended) ~~A~~The preparation according to claim 24, prepared for implantation into the body of a patient.

29. (canceled).

30. (currently amended) ~~A~~The preparation according to claim 24, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: sodium chloride, capsaicin, metformin, salicylic acid, and a derivative of salicylic acid.

31. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The preparation according to claim 24, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of; a substance endogenous to the body, a food substance, a plant material, and a drug.

32. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The preparation according to claim 24, combined with a preparation of at least one ingredient designed for delivery into solution.

33. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The preparation according to claim 24 combined with a preparation of at least one ingredient designed for delivery into solution for a therapeutic purpose.

34. (withdrawn) A method of manufacture of a medicament comprising coating or otherwise enclosing a medically efficacious substance in an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer such that during therapeutic application in or on the body the medically efficacious substance shows:

- (i) no metabolic change;
- (ii) no chemical change; and
- (iii) no diminution in its quantity in the formulation.

35. (canceled).

36. (new) The preparation of claim 24, wherein the layer contains a wax in an amount of between 20% and 45% by weight of the preparation, a ceramic, or combinations thereof.